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NIGHT OF THE JACKAL!
BY
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JACKSON GUICE
AND
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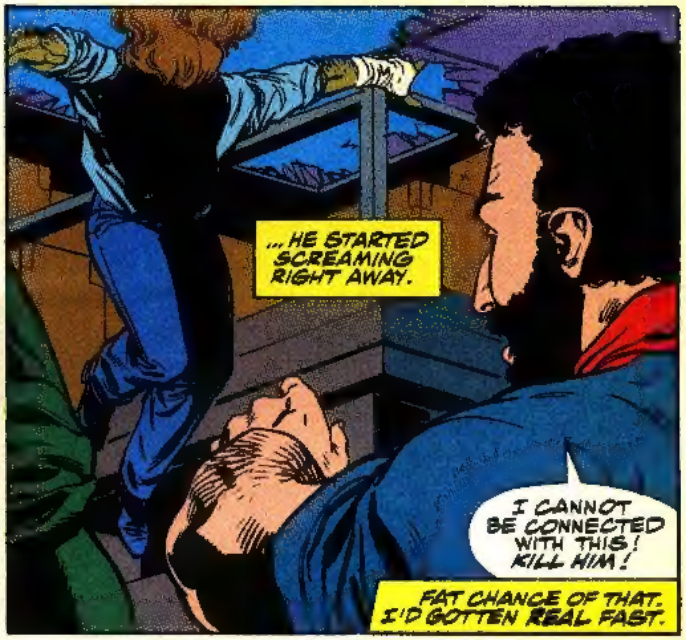
HIS GUN FELL ONE WAY.
WE FELL THE OTHER.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE NOT SURPRISED.
YOU COULD TELL THAT THE BEARD WAS A MONEY MAN...


...HE STARTED SCREAMING RIGHT AWAY.
I CANNOT BE CONNECTED WITH THIS! KILL HIM!
FAT CHANCE OF THAT. I'D GOTTEN REAL FAST.

IT WAS AS IF THOSE BUMS WERE STANDING STILL.
STILL, I DID LOSE THE MASK. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WOULD... LOUSY, CHEAP ELASTIC.

WHAT--? WHY WOULD HE WEAR ANOTHER MASK UNDER THE FIRST--?!
THAT... IS NO MASK.

SEEING MY FACE UPSET THE BEARD. HE GRABBED HIS CASE AND FELL BACK.
THE OTHERS CLOSED RANKS AND TRIED TO LOOK TOUGH, BUT I COULD SMELL THE FEAR IN THEM.

THEY'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE ME.
I GAVE THEM THE GRIN.
IT WASN'T PRETTY. BUT THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT.
I HELD IT JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM SQUIRM.
THEN I WENT TO WORK.
I COULD FEEL THEIR BONES SNAP. IT FELT GOOD.
I WORKED FAST, BUT NOT TOO FAST. I WANTED THEM TO LINGER A LITTLE.
ONE IDIOT PULLED A GUN.
THANKS TO HIM, A FEW OF THEM BOUGHT IT FASTER THAN I'D PLANNED.
THAT REALLY HACKED ME OFF. I MADE SURE HIS END WAS SLOW AND PAINFUL.
THAT GAVE THE BEARD TIME TO FIND HIS KEYS.
FROM THE LOOK IN HIS EYES, I COULD SEE THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD STOP ME WITH THAT TRUCK.

HE WAS WRONG.
THE TRUCK ROLLED OVER TWO OR THREE TIMES BEFORE IT FINALLY CAME TO REST ON ITS SIDE.
THE CAB HAD CAVED IN ALL AROUND US.
TOOK ME THE BETTER PART OF A MINUTE TO CLAW MY WAY FREE.
WAIT... YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!
WRONG AGAIN.
THE SHAPE HE WAS IN, THE BEARD WOULDN'T BE NEEDING HIS CASH MUCH LONGER. I KNEW THAT I COULD PUT IT TO BETTER USE.
AS I CLIMBED FROM THE WRECKAGE, I SPOTTED A STIFF... THE LAST OF BIG JOEY'S BOYS... HE'D GOTTEN IN THE WAY OF THE TRUCK.
NICE ARMBAND. HE WOULDN'T BE NEEDING IT, EITHER.
YOU... ROB THE DEAD! YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A JACKAL!
JACKAL. I LIKED THE SOUND OF THAT.
NOW I HAD A NEW NAME TO GO WITH MY NEW LIFE. THIS WAS GOING TO BE SWEET!

THE TRAIL OF THE JACKAL
CENTRAL OHIO, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...
GOOD LORD... WHAT IS THIS?!
THIS IS NO SIMPLE PLANE CRASH...
...IT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE AFTERMATH OF A TERRORIST ATTACK!
ANOTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE OF
SUPERMAN
created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
... AS IMAGINEERED by ROGER STERN WRITER • JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST • JENNIFER FRANK ASSISTANT • MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

PARDON ME, MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
JUMPIN' JEEZ--! YOU'RE REALLY HIM, AREN'T YOU? SUPERMAN!
YES, I AM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' IN THESE PARTS, BUT I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU! I'M SHERIFF GUILKEY...

...OH, AN' THIS HERE'S DR. DARWIN JONES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.
AN HONOR, SUPERMAN. I ONLY WISH WE COULD HAVE MET UNDER LESS GRISLY CIRCUMSTANCES.
JUST WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES?

NEAR AS WE CAN RECKON, SOMEBODY WAS USIN' NATE WINSLOW'S BACK FIELD HERE TO LAND PLANES... SMUGGLIN' DOPE. WE FOUND TRACES OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE COCAINE SCATTERED ABOUT.
SOMETHING EVIDENTLY TOOK THE SMUGGLERS BY SURPRISE.
SOMETHING?!
THE BODIES HAVE ALL BEEN SEVERELY MAULED, SUPERMAN. THE CLAW MARKS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOUND IN THE CATTLE MUTILATIONS WHICH HAVE LATELY PLAGUED THE REGION...

...THAT'S WHAT ORIGINALLY BROUGHT ME TO THIS AREA.
HELP
EH?
PLEASE
MY GOD...

...THERE'S A MAN TRAPPED UNDER HERE!

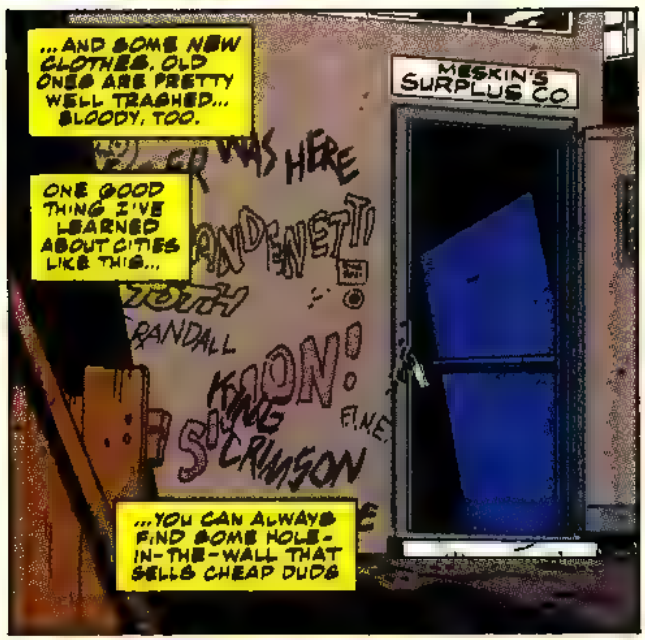
NO, NO! DON'T TRY TO SIT UP... DON'T MOVE AT ALL! IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU STAY STILL!
EASE HIM BACK DOWN GENTLY, JONES. HE'S SUSTAINED SEVERAL FRACTURES...
...LOOKS LIKE HIS LEGS TOOK THE WORST OF IT. HIS MAJOR ORGANS LOOK ALL RIGHT, THOUGH... AND I DON'T SEE ANY SPINE OR PELVIS DAMAGE.
LORD, IT'S NATE! I'D HOPED THAT HE WASN'T INVOLVED.
HE'S A LUCKY MAN... THE EDGES OF THIS DITCH SAVED HIM FROM BEING CRUSHED!
MR. WINSLOW? WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
CAN YOU TALK? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
MONSTER... CAME OUTTA NOWHERE. KILT TH' OTHERS. DUMPED M' TRUCK... RIGHT ON TOP A ME!
A MONSTER?!
CALLED HISSELF... JACKAL!
HEY, SHERIFF!
THERE'S SOME KINDA WEIRD TRACKS... HEADIN' OFF THROUGH THE CORN!
AH-HAH!
WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THIS "JACKAL" IS, HIS HEAT TRAIL STANDS OUT LIKE A BEACON TO MY EYES. IT LEADS...

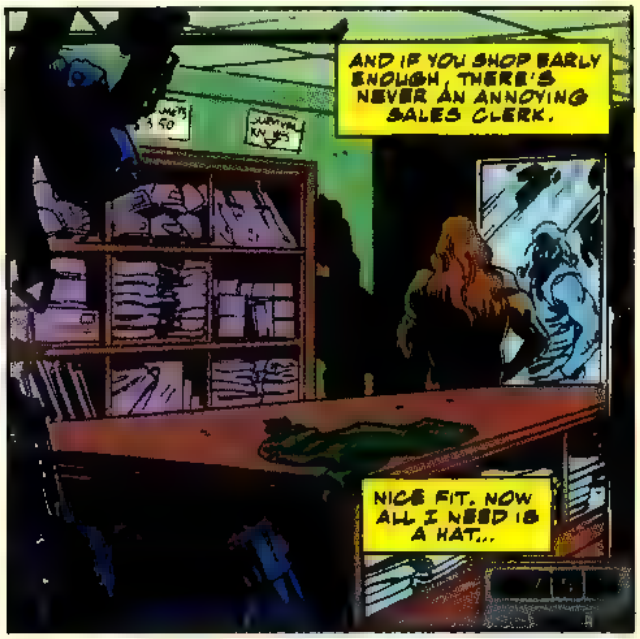
...RIGHT TO THESE CONRAIL TRACKS!
LOOKS LIKE TRAINS HAVE PASSED BOTH WAYS TONIGHT!
YES, I CAN SEE A SWITCHING SPUR ABOUT A MILE AWAY. NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER HE WENT EAST OR WEST.
END OF THE TRAIL FOR SUPERMAN. FROM HERE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL UP TO...
...CLARK?
THIS IS TURNING INTO A REAL PUZZLE. AND TO THINK, IF I HADN'T FLOWN OUT TO VISIT MA AND PA, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS IT.
CLARK KENT! YOU WOKE ME OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP--
--TO HELP YOU! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS ANSWER ME!
I ASKED HOW IT WAS GOING.
EH? OH... SORRY, LOIS. WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SLOW. THE INFO YOU PULLED FROM THE FILES HAS BEEN A BIG HELP...
...BUT IT'S RAISED MORE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERED NONE! THE OHIO MURDERS CROSS-REFERENCE WITH OTHER "UNEXPLAINED" KILLINGS! I NEED A LOT MORE DATA--
--AND A COMPUTER MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE DAILY PLANET'S TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
MAYBE KITTY FAULKNER COULD FIND US SOME TIME ON S.T.A.R. LABS' MAINFRAME... BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'LL NEED SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A COMPUTER TO FIND THIS KILLER.
SHERLOCK--? OF COURSE!

MMPH - MMM...
...WELL! THAT'S A BETTER EYE-OPENER THAN DELI COFFEE ANY TIME! BUT WHAT BROUGHT THAT ON?
THAT WAS FOR PROVIDING CONSTANT INSPIRATION... NOT TO MENTION BEING BEAUTIFUL AND BRAINY!
YOU SWEET TALKER... TELL ME MORE!
I'D LOVE TO, HON--
--BUT DUTY CALLS--
--AND I REALLY HAVE TO FLY!
TELL THE CHIEF I'M ON TO A HOT STORY! LOVE YOU!
AND I LOVE YOU.
TAKE CARE, CLARK... TAKE GOOD CARE.
"A SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A COMPUTER," EH? I KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND BOTH. BUT I'D BETTER STEP ON IT. DAWN'S BREAKING...

"... AND THE HELP I'M LOOKING FOR RARELY VENTURES OUT IN DAYLIGHT."
CONRAIL
END OF THE LINE--AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON.

SUN'S COMING UP... AND I STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, THE WAY I LOOK... ESPECIALLY IN A BURG THIS SIZE
CONRAIL
CALVIN CIT
PENNSYLV
POP. 40,207
NO TRESPASS
GOTTA FIND ME SOME COVER...


...AND SOME NEW CLOTHES. OLD ONES ARE PRETTY WELL TRASHED... BLOODY, TOO.
MESKIN'S SURPLUS CO
ONE GOOD THING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT CITIES LIKE THIS...
...YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND SOME HOLE-IN-THE-WALL THAT SELLS CHEAP DUDS


AND IF YOU SHOP EARLY ENOUGH, THERE'S NEVER AN ANNOYING SALES CLERK.
NICE FIT. NOW ALL I NEED IS A HAT...

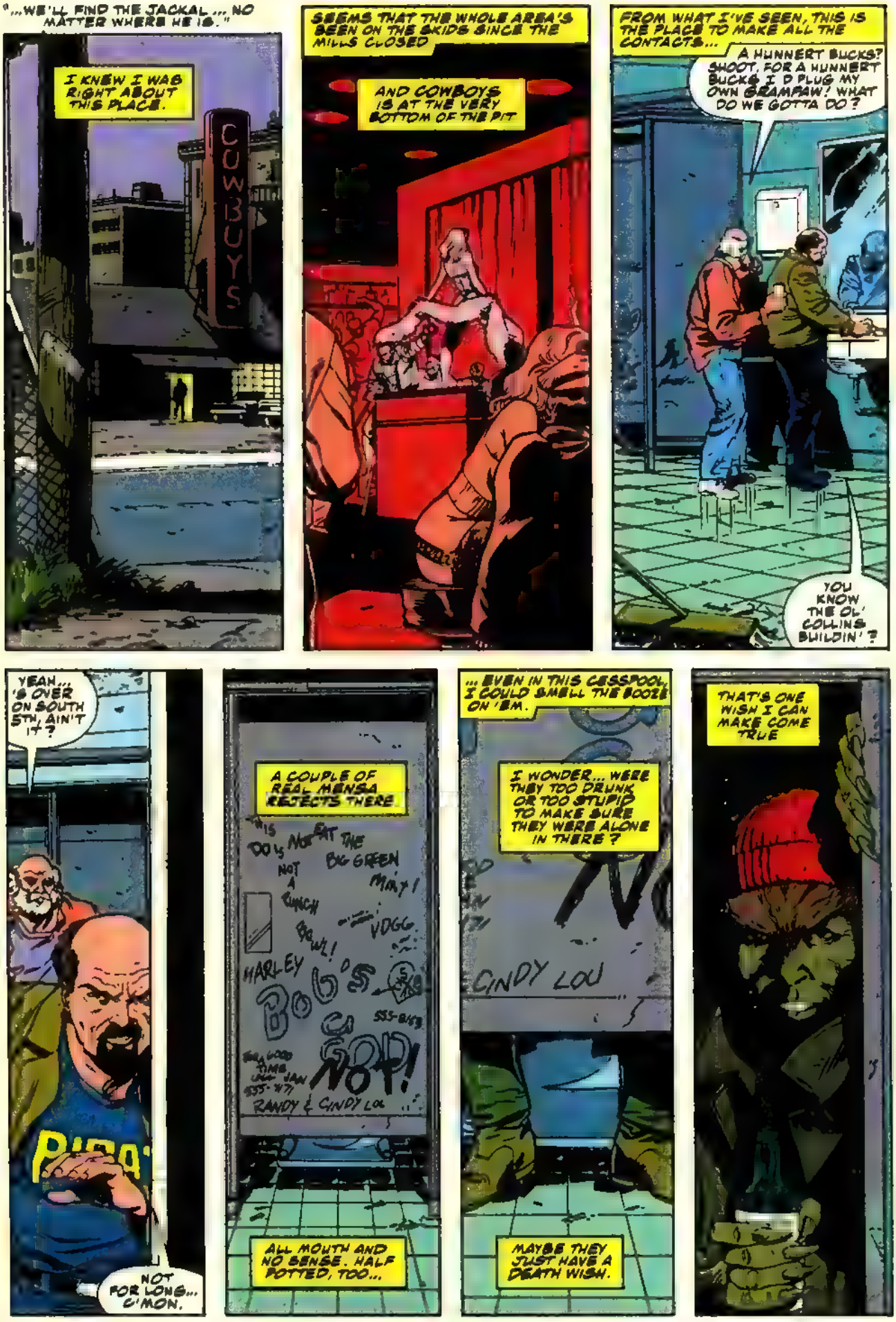
...SOMETHING THAT I CAN TUCK MY HAIR UP UNDER... SOMETHING TO HIDE THE EARS.
THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK

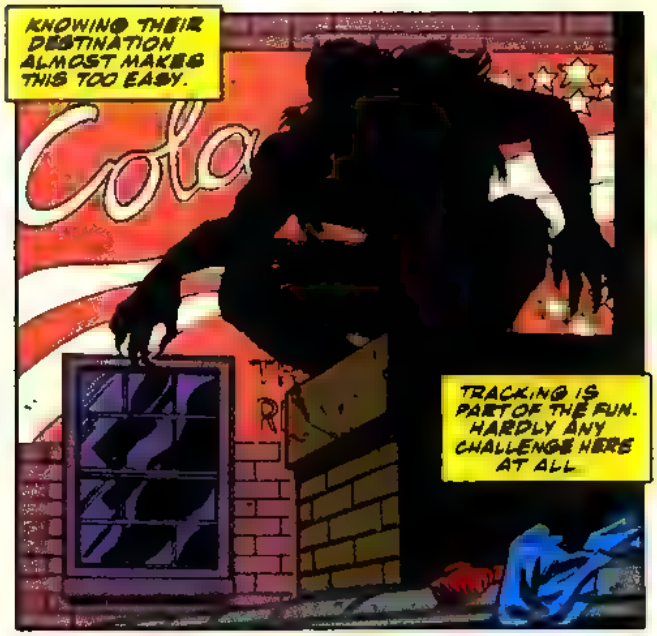
YEAH, NO ONE'LL GIVE ME A SECOND LOOK NOW... 'LONG AS I STICK TO THE ROUGHER PARTS OF TOWN...
...AND THAT'S DEFINITELY IN MY GAME PLAN!

THAT'S WHERE I FIND MY PREY
THE NEIGHBORHOOD OUTSIDE HAS THE SMELL OF A REAL HELLHOLE...

...JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
I APPRECIATE THIS, ROBIN.
HEY, MY PLEASURE. IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET TO HELP SUPERMAN, AFTER ALL!
BESIDES, I STILL OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR THE ASSIST YOU GAVE ME IN STOPPING THAT VAMPIRE!*
EVEN SO... I CAME HERE EXPECTING TO ENLIST THE BATMAN'S AID...
*IN MAN OF STEEL #14 AND SUPERMAN #70
... I DON'T WANT TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES!
NO PROBLEM! THIS IS A LOCAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY!
I KNOW I DON'T HAVE BATMAN'S EXPERIENCE, BUT I HAVE BECOME PRETTY GOOD AT PROGRAMMING THE BATCAVE'S MAINFRAME!
THE GRAPH ON THAT MONITOR... YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIN-POINT ASSAULTS RELATED TO THIS JACKAL CHARACTER AT ALL THOSE SITES?
IT'S LOOKING THAT WAY.
THERE ARE A WHOLE SERIES OF UNEXPLAINED KILLINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, STARTING IN SAN DIEGO A FEW MONTHS BACK--
--ALL APPARENTLY UNRELATED... UNTIL I INITIATED A SEARCH BASED ON THE DATA YOU'VE COMPILED.
THIS IS SERIOUSLY TWISTED...

...IN EVERY CASE, A CRIME WAS INTERRUPTED AND THE PERPETRATORS BRUTALLY ATTACKED AND KILLED. THIS SOUNDS LIKE A HEADLINE FROM A SUPERMARKET TABLOID--
--BUT UNIDENTIFIED "BIGFOOT" PRINTS WERE FOUND ON OR NEAR EACH SCENE. AND HERE'S AN INTERESTING SIDEBAR...
...SIMILAR 'PRINTS' WERE FOUND IN AN AREA WHERE A YOUNG GIRL WAS ALMOST SACRIFICED BY A WEIRD RELIGIOUS CULT.
APPARENTLY, SHE'D EXHIBITED SIGNS OF METAHUMAN POWERS, AND THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS A DEMON. ANYWAY, THE CULT WAS SLAUGHTERED... AND THE GIRL DESCRIBED HER RESCUER AS A "WEREWOLF."
AUTHORITIES DISCOUNTED HER STORY, BUT I HAVE A HUNCH THAT IT'S TRUE... AND THE KEY TO MAKING SENSE OF THIS!
I THINK THIS "JACKAL" OF YOURS MIGHT VERY WELL BE SOME KIND OF METAHUMAN VIGILANTE, DISHING OUT HIS OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE.
IT SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE, ROBIN. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE CHOSEN...THIS LIFE...
...TREAD A FINE LINE IN OUR PURSUIT OF JUSTICE. THE TEMPTATION TO CROSS THAT LINE IS ALWAYS THERE.
...AND NOT ALL CAN RESIST IT. THAT TEMPTATION CAN BE ALL THE MORE ENTICING FOR THOSE OF GREAT POWER.
WHOEVER... WHATEVER THE JACKAL IS, HE'S CROSSED THAT LINE.
YOU KNOW, I'VE HEARD THE BATMAN SAY THE SAME THING... ABOUT TEMPTATION AND JUSTICE. I MEAN ...SO MANY TIMES.
REALLY?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, ROBIN. YOUR MENTOR IS A WISE MAN.
YEAH... A LITTLE STRICT, SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S ALL RIGHT
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO STICK AROUND HERE... I KNOW YOU'RE A BUSY GUY. THIS DISC HAS EVERYTHING I'VE COMPILED SO FAR, AND I'LL CONTINUE THE SEARCH, OF COURSE.
THANKS, ROBIN. I'M SURE THAT WITH YOUR HELP...


"...WE'LL FIND THE JACKAL... NO MATTER WHERE HE IS."
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS PLACE.
COWBUYS
SEEMS THAT THE WHOLE AREA'S BEEN ON THE SKIDS SINCE THE MILLS CLOSED
AND COWBOYS IS AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE PIT
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THIS IS THE PLACE TO MAKE ALL THE CONTACTS...
A HUNNERT BUCKS? SHOOT, FOR A HUNNERT BUCKS I D PLUG MY OWN GRAMPAW! WHAT DO WE GOTTA DO?
YOU KNOW THE OL' COLLINS BUILDIN'?
YEAH... 'S OVER ON SOUTH 5TH, AIN'T IT?
NOT FOR LONG... C'MON.
A COUPLE OF REAL MENSA REJECTS THERE.
ALL MOUTH AND NO SENSE. HALF POTTED, TOO...
... EVEN IN THIS CESSPOOL, I COULD SMELL THE BOOZE ON 'EM.
I WONDER... WERE THEY TOO DRUNK OR TOO STUPID TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE ALONE IN THERE?
CINDY LOU
MAYBE THEY JUST HAVE A DEATH WISH.
THAT'S ONE WISH I CAN MAKE COME TRUE


KNOWING THEIR DESTINATION ALMOST MAKES THIS TOO EASY.
Cola
TRACKING IS PART OF THE FUN. HARDLY ANY CHALLENGE HERE AT ALL

...SO YOU SEE, PROFESSOR, THIS IS THE CREATURE'S FOOTPRINT.
A MOST INTERESTING CHALLENGE, SUPERMAN. I'D AGREE THAT IT CAME FROM A METAHUMAN OF SOME KIND... EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.
RING RING

I'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE MY FUN WITH THEM IN OTHER WAYS
THEY WON'T LIKE THAT..

YES, THIS IS PROFESSOR HAMILTON. WHY... YES, HE IS!
SUPERMAN? A CALL FOR YOU... IT'S YOUR... RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
AH, YES... I GAVE HIM YOUR NUMBER.

STAIRS
...BUT I WILL.

SUPERMAN, HI! ANOTHER PRINT'S TURNED UP IN A PENNSYLVANIA RAILYARD... ABOUT 250 MILES FROM WHERE YOU ARE IN METROPOLIS. BASED ON WHAT ELSE WE KNOW--
CALVIN CITY

"--THE TRAIL LOOKS HOT!"
THAT'S IT! SOAK THE FLOOR DOWN GOOD WIT' THAT KEROSENE!
'EY, WHY NOT USE GASOLINE, ARNIE? IT'D BURN FASTER!
'CAUSE THE GUY WHAT OWNS THIS BUILDIN' WANTS THE FIRE TO LOOK ACCIDENTAL-LIKE... OTHERWISE, HE CAN'T COLLECT NO INSURANCE!
THIS WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE SOME BUM WAS UP HERE, USIN' THIS OL' BROKEN HEATER...

...AN' THINGS JUST GOT OUTTA HAND.
CHEE, YOU'RE SMART, ARNIE.

NOT REALLY.
HUH? WHO'S THERE?!

I AM.
WHUNNNGH--!

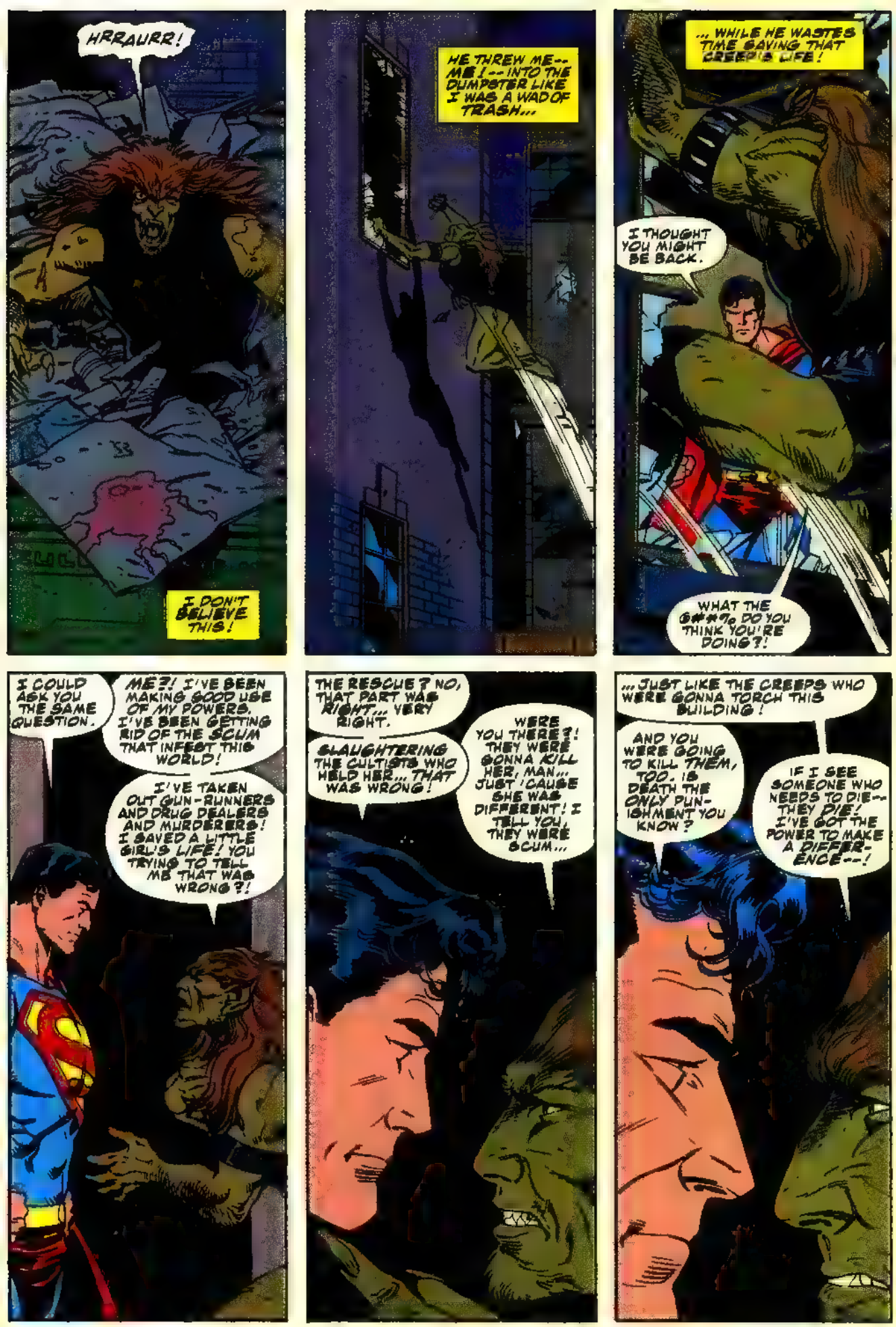
ARNIE!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT'D YOU DO TO 'IM?!

I'M THE JACKAL. AND I WAS JUST WARMING UP.
OGOD... NO, NO! H-E-L-P!!

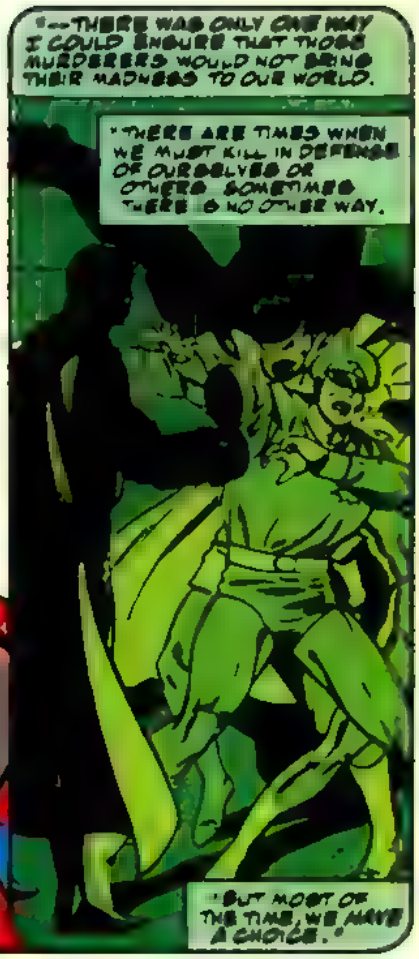
I'M IN MID-LEAP WHEN IT HAPPENS.
SOMETHING COMES CRASHING THROUGH A WINDOW -- SO FAST THAT EVEN I BARELY HAVE TIME TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING MOVE LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST A BLUR -- NO, WAIT! -- IN THE GLARE OF THE FIRE, I SEE...
...A HAND GRABBING UP THAT OLD TARPAULIN!
HE'S EVERYWHERE. I HARDLY CATCH A BREATH, AND HE'S ALMOST FINISHED SMOTHERING THE FIRE.
WHO IS THIS...THE FLASH?
NO. THAT CAPE --!
ONLY ONE GUY WEARS A CAPE LIKE THAT --!
SUPERMAN?
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE VERY LUCKY... I SPOTTED THE FIRE --!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BOTHER! NO FIRE WOULD GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE! I GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, IT'S A THRILL --
--MEETING YOU ON THE JOB LIKE THIS! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, ANYWAY? WERE YOU AFTER THESE ARSONISTS, TOO? OR...
...S-A-Y, IF YOU'RE SCOUTING ME FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, I GOTTA TELL YOU UP FRONT -- I'M STRICTLY A LONER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING BANDAGES.
IF YOU'RE THE JACKAL, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, ALL RIGHT! STAND RIGHT THERE... I'LL DEAL WITH YOU IN A MOMENT.

YOU THERE! I NOTICED A PAYPHONE ON THE CORNER... WHILE I TEND TO YOUR FRIEND HERE, GO DOWN AND CALL 911.
TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED, AND WAIT FOR THE POLICE. WHEN THEY ARRIVE, TURN YOURSELF IN. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
Y-Y-YES, SIR, MISTUH SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE LETTING HIM GO?!
HE'LL GET AWAY... WE'LL HAVE TO TRACK HIM DOWN--!
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
EASY... I JUST ABOUT HAVE THE BLEEDING STOPPED...
WHAT THE @#*% IS THIS?! I CAUGHT THOSE CREEPS IN THE ACT OF TORCHING THIS PLACE! THAT'S AN ARSONIST, NOT YOUR LONG-LOST BROTHER!
I'D HAVE DEALT WITH BOTH OF THEM BY NOW, IF YOU HADN'T BUTTED IN!
HEY! LISTEN TO ME!!
JACKAL--
--I'VE HEARD EVERY WORD YOU'VE SAID, AND IT MAKES ME SICK!
I'M TRYING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THIS MAN YOU "DEALT WITH," AND I DON'T NEED ANY INTERRUPTIONS FROM YOU!
WHU--?!
I WANT YOU OUT OF MY WAY WHILE I CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.
HEYYYY!
I KNOW JUST THE PLACE TO PUT YOU! AND THIS TIME--
--STAY PUT! IF I HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN AGAIN, I MIGHT LOSE MY TEMPER!
KERSTUNK!


HRRAURR!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
HE THREW ME-- ME!--INTO THE DUMPSTER LIKE I WAS A WAD OF TRASH...
...WHILE HE WASTES TIME SAVING THAT CREEP'S LIFE!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE BACK.
WHAT THE @#%?, DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
ME?! I'VE BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF MY POWERS. I'VE BEEN GETTING RID OF THE SCUM THAT INFEST THIS WORLD!
I'VE TAKEN OUT GUN-RUNNERS AND DRUG DEALERS AND MURDERERS! I SAVED A LITTLE GIRL'S LIFE! YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT WAS WRONG?!
THE RESCUE? NO, THAT PART WAS RIGHT... VERY RIGHT.
SLAUGHTERING THE CULTISTS WHO HELD HER... THAT WAS WRONG!
WERE YOU THERE?! THEY WERE GONNA KILL HER, MAN... JUST 'CAUSE SHE WAS DIFFERENT! I TELL YOU, THEY WERE SCUM...
...JUST LIKE THE CREEPS WHO WERE GONNA TORCH THIS BUILDING!
AND YOU WERE GOING TO KILL THEM, TOO. IS DEATH THE ONLY PUNISHMENT YOU KNOW?
IF I SEE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO DIE-- THEY DIE! I'VE GOT THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE--!

I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO PLAY EXECUTIONER!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT! HERE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE THE MAN-- SOMEONE WHO COULD REALLY KICK BUTT--
--BUT YOU'RE JUST A BIG BLUE WIMP! YOU COULDN'T KILL ANYONE IF YOU HAD TO!

JACKAL, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WRONG YOU ARE. I'VE KILLED... OH, YES...
...I CAN NEVER FORGET IT. ON ANOTHER WORLD, I HAD TO EXECUTE THREE MASS MURDERERS ...GLOBAL MURDERERS.
I HAD NO CHOICE AT THE TIME--

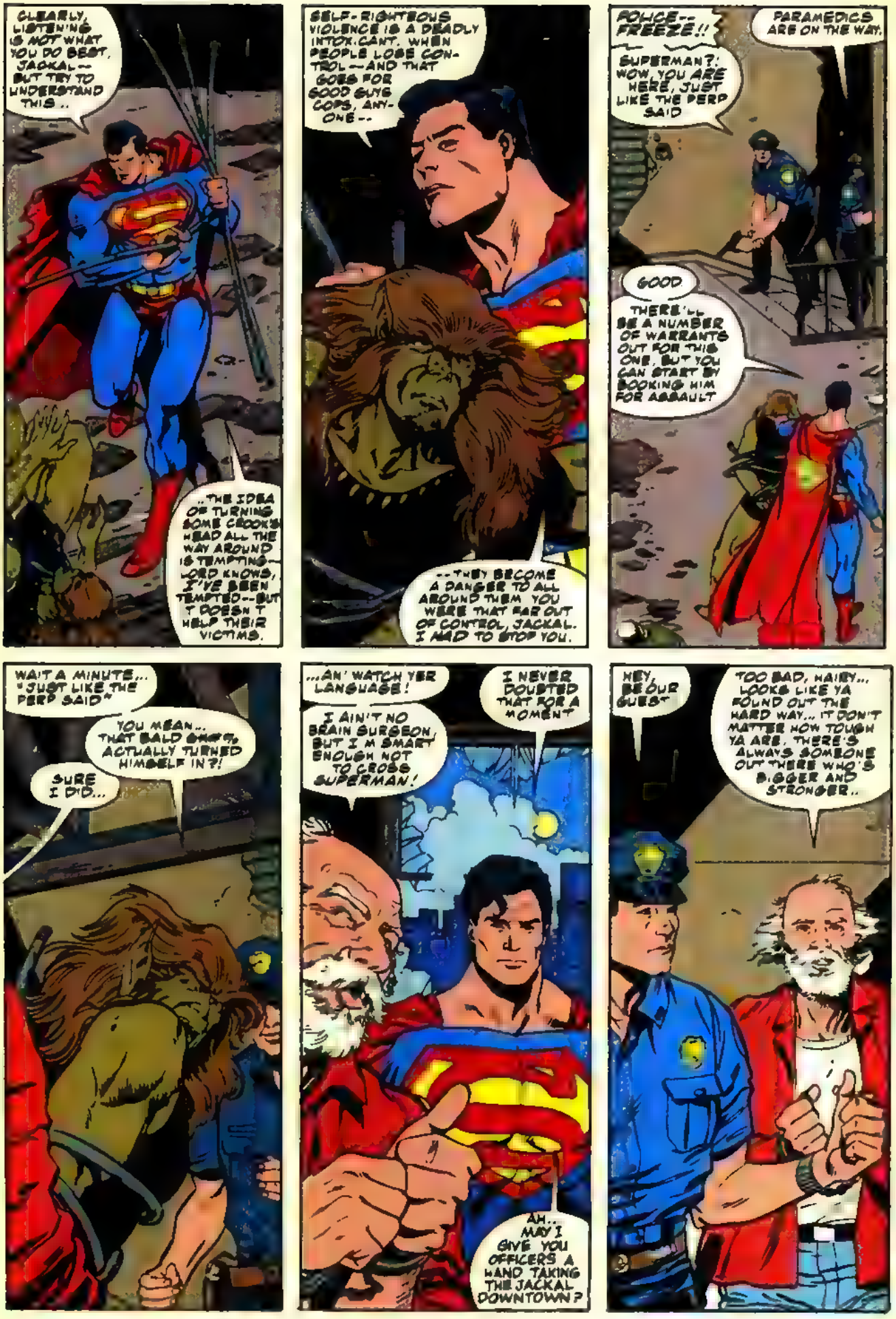

"--THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY I COULD ENSURE THAT THOSE MURDERERS WOULD NOT BRING THEIR MADNESS TO OUR WORLD.
"THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE MUST KILL IN DEFENSE OF OURSELVES OR OTHERS. SOMETIMES THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
"BUT MOST OF THE TIME, WE HAVE A CHOICE."

DON'T HAND ME THAT BULL! CREEPS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE-- AND IT'S OUR JOB TO SEE THAT THEY GET IT! THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!
YOU WANT A BOTTOM LINE? I'LL GIVE YOU ONE--
--"DEAD MEN CAN'T MAKE RESTITUTION!" IS THAT DIRECT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS CRUD! I'M OUTTA HERE!
WRONG AGAIN--
--YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

I KNEW HOW FAST HE WAS, BUT STILL HE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE. WELL--

--I'M PRETTY FAST, TOO... FAST ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIM WITH NOTHING BUT A FISTFUL OF FUR.
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT SUPERMAN, BUT ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE...
...YOU CAN'T FIGHT A GUY LIKE HIM HALFWAY! IT HAS TO BE ALL OUT OR NOTHING.
GOT TO HIT HIM--HARD AND FAST! --WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!
TEETH AND CLAWS! FISTS AND FEET!
SLASH AND PUNCH AND BITE!
AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
NOTHING! EXCEPT... I JUST BROKE MY RIGHT HAND.
IF I WAS THAT TOUGH, I'D BE GRINNIN' FROM EAR TO EAR! HE JUST STANDS THERE WITH THAT POKER FACE!
DOESN'T HE FEEL ANYTHING?!
DAMN... THINK I BROKE THE OTHER HAND.
JACKAL, HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?
NO! FIGHT BACK, YOU S@*%!!
IF THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE--!


CLEARLY, LISTENING IS NOT WHAT YOU DO BEST, JACKAL-- BUT TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS..
..THE IDEA OF TURNING SOME CROOK'S HEAD ALL THE WAY AROUND IS TEMPTING-- LORD KNOWS, I'VE BEEN TEMPTED--BUT IT DOESN'T HELP THEIR VICTIMS.
SELF-RIGHTEOUS VIOLENCE IS A DEADLY INTOXICANT. WHEN PEOPLE LOSE CONTROL--AND THAT GOES FOR GOOD GUYS COPS, ANYONE--
--THEY BECOME A DANGER TO ALL AROUND THEM. YOU WERE THAT FAR OUT OF CONTROL, JACKAL. I HAD TO STOP YOU.
POLICE-- FREEZE!!
SUPERMAN?! WOW, YOU ARE HERE, JUST LIKE THE PERP SAID
PARAMEDICS ARE ON THE WAY.
GOOD
THERE'LL BE A NUMBER OF WARRANTS OUT FOR THIS ONE, BUT YOU CAN START BY BOOKING HIM FOR ASSAULT
WAIT A MINUTE... "JUST LIKE THE PERP SAID"
YOU MEAN.. THAT BALD SHIT, ACTUALLY TURNED HIMSELF IN?!
SURE I DID...
...AN' WATCH YER LANGUAGE!
I AIN'T NO BRAIN SURGEON, BUT I'M SMART ENOUGH NOT TO CROSS SUPERMAN!
I NEVER DOUBTED THAT FOR A MOMENT
AH.. MAY I GIVE YOU OFFICERS A HAND TAKING THE JACKAL DOWNTOWN?
HEY, BE OUR GUEST
TOO BAD, HAILEY... LOOKS LIKE YA FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY... IT DON'T MATTER HOW TOUGH YA ARE, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO'S BIGGER AND STRONGER..

SOMEWHERE ELSE...
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KROOM!
...DOOMSDAY IS HERE!

RE:ACTION

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Dear Editor:

Welcome, Jackson Guice! I know he's been here for a while now, but ACTION COMICS #679 was great in terms of artwork. There is a realism in Jackson's art that today's so-called hot artists lack. The panel of Superman in panel one on page 17 looks like it flies off the page. Of course, I must not slight Denis Rodier's work. They work well together and I hope this team lasts at least a hundred issues.

Lana without a ponytail? It looks great; so does Pete's devotion to Lana. Clark is right, though: More men like Peter Ross are needed to lead this country. I hope Pete's life works out with Lana at his side.

Speaking about devotion, when are we going to see more growth in the Lois and Clark relationship? It's been quite a while since their talk on Mount Fuji. We want more! Hey, the stories like "Panic in the Sky" are great, but the true appeal comes from the MAN, not the SUPER. I know that Mr. Stern can ably fill this last request.

I'm looking forward to many more years of entertainment from the SUPERMAN line. Maybe when my grandkids graduate, they'll have grown up reading them.

Oh, goodness. I seem to have a future! Is this what they call "the real world"?

Christopher S. Aguinaldo
Wahiawa, HI

* * * * *

Dear Roger:

I just wanted to thank you for finishing the story the Kesels started in HAWK & DOVE #13. Ruth Spencer was haunting herself with Shellshock the whole time. That explains an awful lot about that H & D issue. Did you confer with the Kesels to finish it off, or did you work it out for yourself? Either way, it's a great story. I would strongly encourage anyone who hasn't read HAWK & DOVE #13 to go seek it out. I hope that Shellshock will appear again before too long.

Seeing the Washington S.C.U. again was another special treat. You also gave us some follow-up to ARMAGEDDON 2001 #2—no one knows that Dove's dead! Surely there's another story here.

While I'm here, I'd like to ask Mike to arrange for some guest appearances in these pages (or the other three SUPER titles): the Ray (please, please, please), Hawkman/Hawkwoman and Swamp Thing (longshot request with no chance, designed to make first two more likely). Here's hoping.

Paul N. Hicks
Chatswood, Australia

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Hmmm. I'm one of those people who really gets a kick out of writers who bring back obscure characters from cancelled titles and uses them to their fullest potential. With that in mind, I don't even need to tell you how enjoyable ACTION #679 was for me.

HAWK & DOVE was one of DC's best titles over the last couple of years, and no one was sorrier than me to see it go. But leave it to Roger Stern to bring back one of the more intriguing characters from that title's run and give that character a proper ending. The unravelling of the mystery of Shellshock turned out to be one of Roger's more interesting tales. I really didn't have a clue that Ruth Spencer was actually creating Shellshock, but then I can never guess the ending of *Murder, She Wrote*, either.

I am a little disappointed, though. All these issues set in Washington, D.C. and no guest appearance by Murphy Brown? She could have given Lois and Clark some tips on reporting. How come she didn't drop by? Oh, I get it. Her value system would have led us innocent comic-book readers astray. (It's a good thing Vice President Quayle never picked up an issue of LOBO. Hoo-boy, what a press conference that would be!)

David Scott
Boise, ID

Did you guess you would earn your second Baldy for this letter, David? Maybe this prestigious journalistic award will help you over your Murphy Brown disappointment. (And do us a favor, don't give the Vice President any ideas!)

—Jennifer Frank
Running from Vice

NEXT WEEK: It's death, it's destruction, it's Doomsday! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke cut loose in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #18.

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #74, Doomsday continues to wreak havoc, and Justice League America is called in to stop him...but can they? Brought to you by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #497, if Justice League America couldn't stop him, who can? Now it's the Man of Steel alone against Doomsday! Jerry Ordway writes, Tom Grummett pencils, and Doug Hazlewood inks.

IN ONE MONTH: Doomsday *likes* Superman! Why? Because they think alike...neither one will give up the fight! And the trail of destruction is headed right for Metropolis! Heart-stopping ACTION #684 from Roger Stern, Jackson Guice and Denis Rodier.

This month's cover was pencilled, inked and Fed-Exed by Jackson Guice and colored by Glenn Whitmore.

MORE THAN SUPER-HEROES

(BUT WE'VE GOT THEM TOO!)

ECLIPSO POSTER #1

Star of DC's summer annuals crossover—dramatic Bart Sears art!

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VIGILANTE POSTER #1

Deathstroke's lover/adversary—by DEATHSTROKE, THE TERMINATOR cover artist Mike Zeck.

NIGHTWING POSTER #1

Titans favorite—Nightwing—by fan favorite Art Thibert, artist of the upcoming NIGHTWING miniseries.

MORE THAN SUPER-HEROES

(BUT WE'VE GOT THEM TOO!)

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ARCHIVES VOLUME 2

Legendary first appearances of Element Lad, Lightning Lass, Dream Girl, and the Legion of Substitute Heroes! Pivotal point in Legion history—reprinting Adventure Comics #306-317.

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GREEN LANTERN CORPS QUARTERLY #3

Alan Scott and the Justice Society mourn a dead member! Plus—"Whatever Happened to... Charley Vicker?"

POWER OF SHAZAM POSTER #1

Jerry Ordway—writer and artist of the upcoming *Power of Shazam* graphic novel—presents the heroic Captain Marvel!

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